

the support that they need in a mentoring relationship while growing up.

We know that research has found that young people with a mentor are 55 percent more likely to attend college and more than twice as likely to say that they held a leadership position in a club or sports team than young people without mentors. We also know that people who are mentored in their youth are 78 percent more likely to volunteer in their communities than those who are not mentored.

Unfortunately, despite the tremendous growth of the mentoring movement in America over the past 25 years, 1 in 3 young people, including 9 million at-risk youth, will still reach adulthood without having a mentor of any kind. This mentoring gap isolates these young people from the meaningful connections to adults that would help them to grow and succeed. Furthermore, young people are not the only ones who gain from a mentoring relationship. While mentoring empowers our children and sets them on the path to success, it also deeply enriches the lives of the adults who are partnered with them. As a mentor myself, I can attest to this profound benefit.

MENTOR has been a leader in the development of best practices to assist mentoring organizations across the country in improving their program quality. MENTOR and its network of affiliate Mentoring Partnerships has set the bar for quality in practice and has strengthened the mentoring field's capacity to deliver on the promise of mentoring.

It is clear that, in the last quarter century, MENTOR, under the leadership of its volunteer board and founders, has done tremendous work championing the advancement of mentoring practice and fostering the growth of the mentoring movement. Therefore, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this remarkable organization in expanding the quality and availability of mentoring for all young people in the United States, in honoring the service and leadership of MENTOR cofounders Geoffrey T. Boisi and Raymond G. Chambers and their dedication to America's youth, and in encouraging Americans to discover just how rewarding mentoring can be through volunteering with their local mentoring organization.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DOCTOR M. WILLIAM HOWARD, JR.

• Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize Rev. Dr. M. William Howard, Jr., pastor of Newark's Bethany Baptist Church. Dr. Howard has spent many decades leading the charge for change, fueled by his personal mission to utilize his faith to transform the human condition.

From his Georgia roots to his work at Bethany Baptist, Dr. Howard has shown an extraordinary commitment to serving others. His work outside of the church has spanned the realms of human rights, international affairs, domestic policy, and education. In his role over the last 15 years as pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, he has worked tirelessly to expand outreach to the community as a whole.

Since his first position as a youth leader conducting some of the earliest voter outreach efforts in southwest Georgia, Dr. Howard has been a beacon of light across the globe, bridging the worlds of faith and political activism. He has consistently taken on leadership roles, serving as moderator of the Programme to Combat Racism of the World Council of Churches, president of the National Council of Churches, and president of the American Committee on Africa. Through these posts, Dr. Howard has provided a powerful example of our Nation's commitment to human rights and equality. In ministering to U.S. personnel held hostage in Iran in 1979 and working for the release of U.S. Navy pilot Robert O. Goodman, Dr. Howard was a quiet but powerful force for faith and peace.

Dr. Howard's record of service and leadership domestically is equally impressive. Serving as president of New York Theological Seminary, he demonstrated the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to community development by implementing joint programs in social work and urban education. He has been a board member for such organizations as the National Urban League, the Children's Defense Fund, and the Rutgers University Board of Governors. Under his leadership, the New Jersey Death Penalty Study Commission was instrumental in New Jersey becoming the first State to abolish the death penalty since 1976.

Finally, Dr. Howard's impact on the city of Newark has been remarkable. As pastor of Bethany, Dr. Howard quickly established Bethany Cares, Inc., and through this outreach corporation, the church has actively transcended its congregation walls to serve the community at large. Such transformative work has played an integral part in strengthening the development of New Jersey's largest city.

After 15 years of devoted service as pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Dr. Howard will be retiring. It is an honor to formally recognize Dr. Howard for his unwavering commitment to creating a better world.●

RECOGNIZING VFW POST 1674 ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1674 in Siloam Springs, AR, on its 75th anniversary.

Chartered November 10, 1940, the post was named in honor of Levi Douthit, a WWI veteran.

As a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I understand the im-

portance of acknowledging the bravery and valor of the men and women who fought in defense of our country, as well as those who continue to serve. Men like Levi Douthit and members of VFW Post 1674 set their personal lives aside to fight for our country. This post recognizes the service, sacrifice, and courage of fellow veterans and continues to offer aid and assistance to those who served our Nation in uniform.

As participants in the Buddy Poppy Program, members support the veterans relief fund. They serve veterans in and around Siloam Springs who need help with daily basic needs and transportation to VA health centers for medical treatments.

Members continue their dedication to the community, offering scholarships to students, teaching flag etiquette, and, as partners with Kind at Heart Ministries of Siloam Springs, helping build wheelchair ramps for veterans.

The importance of Post 1674 to the community was apparent when more than a decade ago a lack of membership and financial troubles nearly forced its closure. Businessmen helped raise support in the community and kept its doors open.

I congratulate VFW Post 1674 on its 75th anniversary. I wish Commander Frank Lee and the 163 members who served in U.S. engagements since WWII the best of luck and many more years of camaraderie, service, and investment in the community.●

50-YEAR CLASS REUNION OF THE 1965 CLASS OF WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this week in my hometown of Baltimore, MD, the Western High School class of 1965 will gather to celebrate their 50th class reunion. In honor of this special occasion, I wish to take a moment to pay tribute to the experiences of the WHS class of 1965 and commemorate the lasting legacy of Western High School, which continues to produce leaders for the Baltimore community.

To this day, Western High School remains a source of pride for the city of Baltimore. Founded as Western Female High School in 1844, it remains the oldest operating public all-girls high school in the Nation nearly 171 years after its doors opened on North Paca Street. Prior to the opening of Western Female High School and its now defunct companion Eastern Female High School, Baltimore City females were without an opportunity to advance their education beyond the basic grammar school level. Female students from across the city were drawn to the academic rigor of Western High School, creating a true magnet school, as we know today. As the city of Baltimore grew, so did Western High School. In 1896, Western High School moved to a larger location on Lafayette and McCulloh Streets, which allowed for